



**Statement from the Chief Executive of Fiat, Sergio Marchionne, on the importance of TAV**

Fiat has considered Italy's high-speed rail network (TAV) to be a project of crucial importance from the very beginning when, 20 years ago, Umberto Agnelli got involved personally, chairing the first committee organised to promote the initiative.

Today our view remains unchanged.

This project represents the greatest opportunity Italy has ever had to modernize its infrastructure and lay the foundations of an economic development which can be passed on to future generations. It is essential to making our transportation system more efficient and our country more competitive.

Abandoning TAV - either through inertia or lack of courage - means not only giving up on an important project but also being responsible for cancelling Italy from the European map.

Today we must choose between modernizing this nation or condemning it to isolation. That choice needs to be made urgently and with the full understanding that the future of the entire nation, and not just its economic future, depends on it.

Turin , 22 January 2010